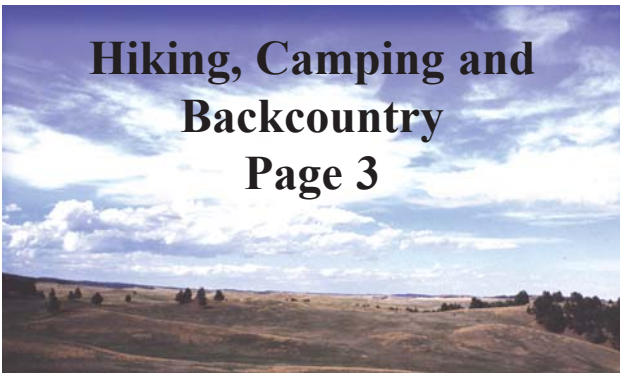




Planning Your Visit Page 2



Hiking, Camping and Backcountry Page 3



Cave Tour Schedules Pages 6 and 7



Visitor's Guide to Wind Cave National Park

2007

Creating Memories at Wind Cave National Park

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts, said Rachel Carson. She and others, Thoreau, Muir, Ansel Adams, spent many hours exploring and learning about the earth. These experiences shaped their lives and, in turn, the lives of countless others.

Educators and outdoor enthusiasts recently noted that our society no longer encourages children to experience the natural world. This loss is troubling because experiences in nature tend to stimulate children's imaginations and creativity. They are also places where we find a sense of peace and renewal.

The restrictions and barriers preventing children from enjoying the outdoors in an unstructured environment are varied, but in the end many psychologists feel an important part of childhood is being missed.

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, noted in his book that while many children have learned about the rainforest and global warming, they know little about the woods near their own backyards. They are missing "places of initiation" where they first sense with awe and wonder the largeness of the world - seen and unseen.

Exploring Beyond the Horizon

Exploring national parks provides an opportunity to discover our natural worlds and to share those experiences with children. At Wind Cave, you can start small so you and the children feel comfortable. Take a hike with a ranger - every morning in the summer at 9 a.m. the park offers a 2-hour nature hike. If that does not fit into your schedule, explore one of the park's self-guided nature trails. These are about a mile long and have an accompanying trail guide. The locations of the nature trails are on the park map on page 3. To go farther, you can explore any of the park's thirty miles of hiking trails or simply take off across the prairie or over the ridge.

Into the Depths!

Seeing the cave on a guided tour is an adventure to share with your children. You can even go beyond the normal tour and challenge yourselves on a more strenuous trip such as the Candlelight Tour (for youngsters 8 or older) or, for young adults 16 and older, the Wild Cave Tour. Cave tours provide a great way to experience and learn about the underground world.



Do Dangers Lurk Beyond?

Often our exploration of wild places is limited because we fear there are dangers: snakes, mountain lions, and getting lost are part of a list of things that keep us inside. However, the chances of those things happening are slim if you are prepared. If you plan to go far - take water and a map and compass or at least look back to see where your vehicle is and pay attention to where you are going. Mountain lions are uncommon in the Hills. Using common sense like hiking in a group and staying calm if you see a lion will help protect you.

Appreciating the Wild in Wildlife

Remember wildlife in the park is wild. Do not approach any animal - including prairie dogs - and do not attempt to feed them. Bison are amazing creatures and are large, fast, and highly unpredictable. If you encounter bison while hiking, alter your route and stay at least 100 yards away from them. If possible stay out of their line of sight and downwind from them.

Snakes are shy creatures and prefer to stay out of our way. We are predators for them and like all animals, they try to avoid predators. Watch your step in rocky areas and don't put your hand in grass or brush unless you can see what's there.

Enjoy knowing that the animals living in the park are wild and moving about in their environment with little interference from humans. For a real natural experience, take some time to sit on a ridge and watch the wildlife going about their normal activities. It is slower than the Discovery Channel but it can be a relaxing adventure.

Creating Memories

National parks are special places protected for us and future generations to enjoy. We can certainly do that from the comfort of our cars, but the added pleasure of exploring the woods and prairie on foot with our children will leave us and them with lasting memories. Enjoy the park and share those experiences with others - do not let our generation be the Last Child in the Woods.

Contacting the park:
In case of **Emergency** dial 911
Visitor Center: 605-745-4600
www.nps.gov/wica/

SIMPLE RULES FOR SAFETY AND TO PROTECT PARK RESOURCES

Park resources are for everyone to enjoy. **Do not disturb or remove rocks, plants, wildlife, antlers or bones, or any other cultural or natural feature.** These features are all part of the park ecosystem and are important to the park history and to the survival of other animals and plants. They are protected by federal law.

Animals in the park are wild and unpredictable. **Do not feed the wildlife.** When you feed animals they may become dependent on handouts and fail to survive the winter. They also become attracted to highways where they can be struck by passing vehicles. **Hunting in the park is prohibited.**

Be aware that rattlesnakes are sometimes found in prairie dog towns and other areas of the park. Bison also frequent prairie dog towns. They can run 35 mph and may weigh a ton! Stay a safe distance (at least 100 yards from a

bison) from all wildlife.

To protect your pet and park wildlife remember: **pets are not permitted in the backcountry.** They are permitted on the Elk Mountain and Prairie Vista Nature Trails. **Pets may not be left unattended and must be on a leash at all times.** Be aware that ticks are common in high grass. They may affect you and/or your pet.

When driving park roads, **obey all speed limits.** They are strictly enforced to protect you and the wildlife. Vehicles (including bicycles) must be on the roadways at all times. **Off-road driving or bicycle riding is prohibited.**

Do not leave traces of your visit. Litter is unsightly and spoils the park experience for everyone.



RANGER PROGRAMS

When planning your visit, plan to attend a ranger-led program. While cave tours are offered all year long, during the summer many other interesting programs are offered. These programs include 5 different cave tours, a ranger-led prairie hike, discovery programs, and evening campfire programs. Topics might include cave history, geology, the relationships of the plants and animals, the importance of fire to the park's ecosystems, or other natural or cultural history topics.

For more information about



park programs, please ask at the visitor center information desk or check out pages 6 and 7 in this newspaper.

VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS

The Visitor Center is a great place to start your park visit. Whether you are intrigued with the cave, the prairie, or both, it is easy to discover more about the park by exploring the exhibit rooms.

The upper exhibit room has displays ranging from how the Plains Indians used the bison to how the park manages the prairie. The cave exhibit room explains cave formations, the development of the cave, and the park's colorful history. A movie, *Wind Cave, Two Worlds*, about the cave, the

prairie, and the park is shown in our auditorium.

Stop at the visitor center for information about cave tours, or for maps, exhibits, book sales, backcountry permits, and Senior and Access Pass, or Interagency Annual Pass.

This year, through a grant made possible by the **National Park Foundation** and the generous support of **Kodak**, a proud partner of American's National Parks, we will be updating many of our visitor center exhibits with new pictures and information.

WEATHER

Wind Cave National Park and the rest of the Southern Black Hills are much warmer and drier than the northern hills. Winter snowfall averages 30 inches annually. The spring and fall can be warm and sunny, or rainy and snowy with a chilly wind. Summer brings warm daytime temperatures with cool evenings.

Severe thunderstorms are common in June and July and occasionally in August.

Thunderstorms can be dangerous and visitors should be prepared for them. Large hail is

common and the storms can produce severe lightning.

Slow moving storms can dump large amounts of rain over a small area. The steep canyons, rock cliffs, and small creeks of the Black Hills are prone to flash flooding. Be cautious when camping near a creek bed even if it is dry. Move uphill if flooding starts.

For current forecasts and warnings, listen to NOAA Weather Radio on 162.425 MHz in the southern Black Hills or 162.550 MHz in Rapid City.

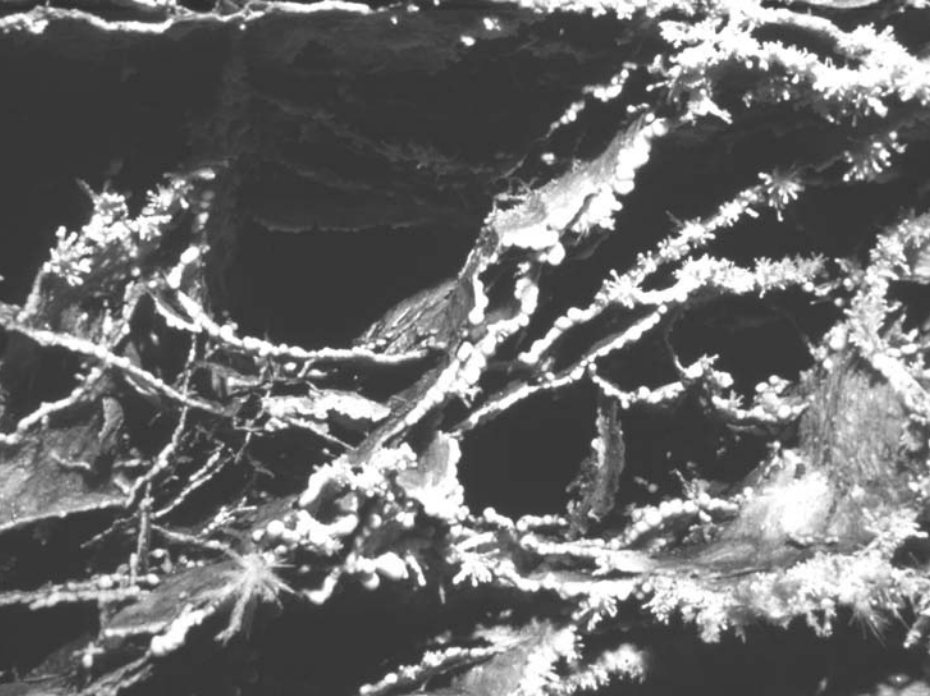
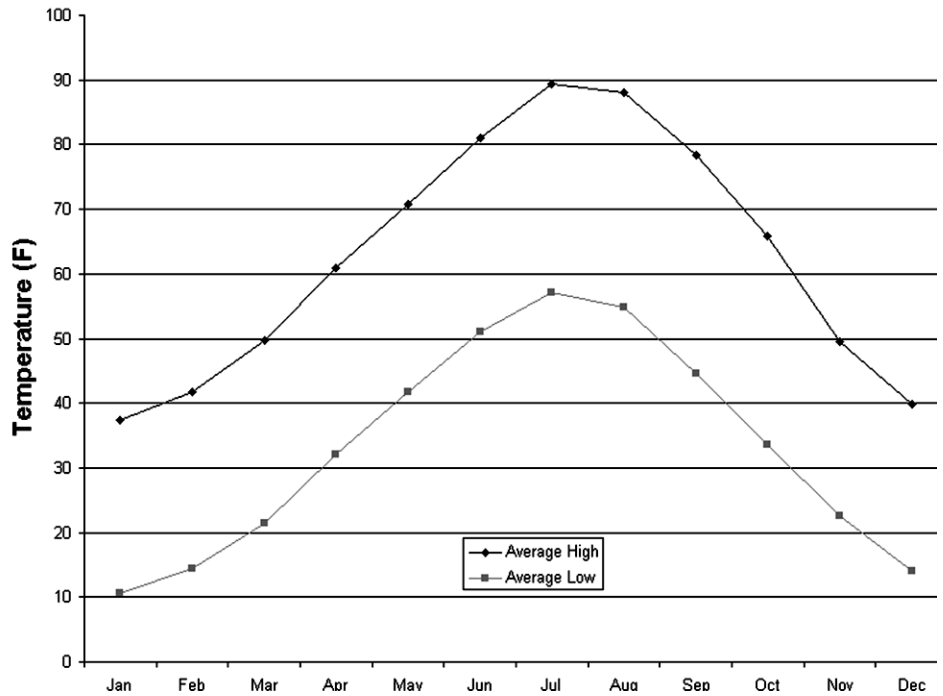
THE CAVE

Wind Cave is quite different from other caves. Instead of stalactites and stalagmites, the cave is decorated with boxwork. Boxwork is a crystalline formation that predates the cave. It was formed when calcite filled tiny cracks within the limestone. Later, when the cave formed, water dissolved the limestone leaving behind the delicate crystal fins that now decorate the cave walls.

Wind Cave is also known for its length and the maze-like configuration of its passageways.

All of the known cave passageways lie beneath a land area of about one-square mile. As of April 2007, the cave was 124 miles long making it the fourth-longest cave in the world. A few caves are longer, but none are as complex as Wind Cave.

To see the cave, stop at the visitor center where all cave tours begin. Cave tours are offered daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day) throughout the year. Tour schedules vary throughout the year. The schedule is listed on page 7.



CAMPING

Wind Cave National Park maintains a developed campground one-mile north of the visitor center. The campground has 75 sites and is open all year, weather permitting.

Occupancy is on a first-come, first-served basis; however the campground rarely fills. Each site accommodates up to eight people. There are two sites accessible for campers with disabilities.

Restrooms have cold water and flush toilets, but no showers, electrical hook-ups, or dump stations. Firewood is available for campers.

The fee for camping is \$12.00 per night, per site. In the off-season when facilities are limited, the fee is \$6.00 per night. Visitors holding a Golden Age / Senior or Access Pass pay half price.

Group camping is available by reservation. For information contact the park at 605-745-4600.



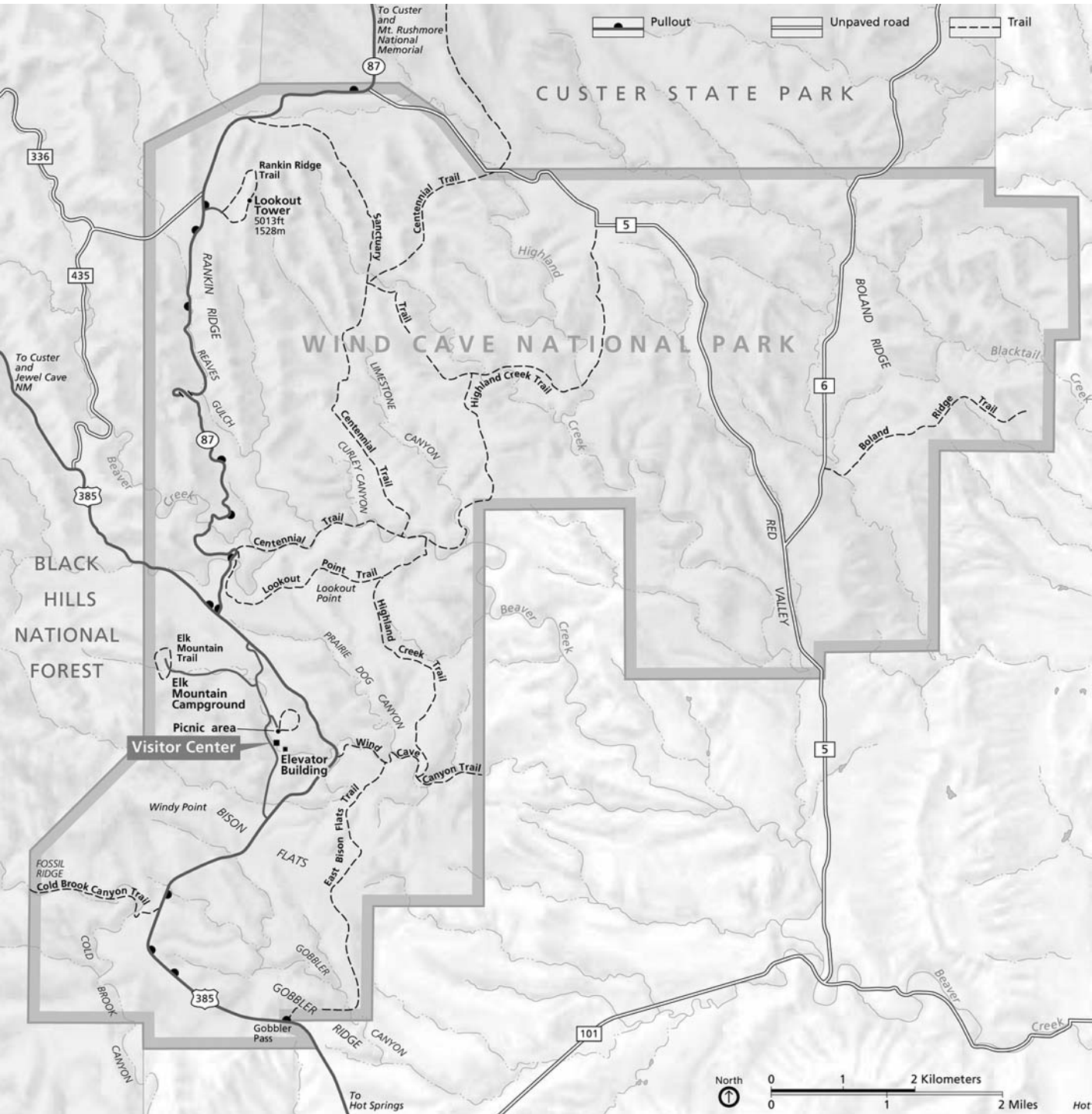
BACKCOUNTRY

Wind Cave National Park’s backcountry offers visitors an excellent opportunity to experience and enjoy the abundant resources of the park. Backcountry camping is permitted in the northwestern part of the park. Within this area are several habitats and a variety of plants and animals.

Backcountry campers must have a permit. Permits are free and can be obtained at the visitor center or at either of the Centennial Trailheads. For the protection of park resources and for your safety, follow all regulations during your stay. Leave no trace of your visit by packing out what you pack in. Pets are not permitted in the backcountry.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

If you are planning your visit or doing a project about Wind Cave, look for our Internet site at www.nps.gov/wica/. If you want to know what’s happening in the park, this is the place to be - we have even included some animal sounds! The website also connects you to planning documents. To go directly to these visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/wica/>.



HIKING TRAILS

Wind Cave National Park includes 28,295 acres of prairie grasslands and ponderosa pine forest. The park is a fascinating combination of ecosystems where eastern habitats meet west-

ern ones. They support a diverse assortment of life. Hiking any of the 30 miles of trails can help visitors better understand the park. You may even want to leave the trails and travel cross-country along the ridges, through the canyons, or across the rolling prairie. A topographic map is recommended and can be purchased at the visitor center.

CENTENNIAL TRAIL

An excellent example of the diversity of the park can be seen by hiking Wind Cave’s six-mile section of the Centennial Trail. This trail crosses the prairie, climbs the forested ridges, and explores the wetter, riparian habi-

tat of Beaver Creek. The 110-mile Centennial Trail meanders from Wind Cave National Park north through the Black Hills.

NATURE TRAILS

There are three nature trails in the park. The Rankin Ridge Nature Trail leads to the highest point in the park where the views are spectacular. The Elk Mountain Nature Trail explores an ecotone, or meeting zone, where the grassland and forest converge. The Prairie Vista Nature Trail starts at the visitor center and explores the prairie grasslands. Booklets are available at the trailheads. Each trail is about one mile in length.



FOOD, LODGING AND GASOLINE

The park operates one campground and has limited food and beverage vending services in the Visitor Center. There are no lodging, gasoline, grocery, or restaurant services available in the park. These services are available in the nearby towns of Hot Springs (15 minutes south) and Custer (25 minutes north). For information regarding services in Hot Springs, call 605-

745-4140 or 800-325-6991. In Custer, call 605-673-2244 or 800-992-9818. Custer State Park, bordering Wind Cave National Park to the north, has campgrounds, restaurants, motels, and some grocery services. Information about Custer State Park is available by calling 605-255-4515. For information about state park lodging, please call 800-658-3530.



In the 1930s the book *Oh Ranger!* reported the duties of a park ranger as being everything from chasing criminals to fighting a forest fire and, at the end of the day, walking nine miles to get home! The ranger's report concluded with "All in a day's work."

While the complexity of the job has increased, along with corresponding changes in job titles, park employees today do many of the same tasks. There are still ranger programs to present, the occasional criminal to catch, and fires to fight, but there are also employees who plow the roads, monitor wildlife populations, and provide administrative support. The effort that keeps the scenery natural is a complex combination of research, resource management, maintenance, public involvement, and paperwork.

Chasing the Wild

Part of the job of protecting the park is understanding the relationship of the animals to their habitats. The resource management staff provides the scientific expertise, research, and in-depth analysis of information that provides direction for managing the park. Following wildlife is still part of "a day's work" for a park employee who also happens to be a biologist.

In January, the resource team captured and fitted fifty-three elk with radio and GPS collars so biologists could study their habits and habitats and monitor their movements in and out of the park. So far, they have discovered that elk captured in Wind Cave National Park may only spend brief periods of time within park boundaries. Many elk move in and out of the park, sometimes several times a year. One GPS collar tracked an elk captured in the park traveling as far as 50 miles away. This information is essential in developing an Elk Management Plan.

But elk are not the only animals being studied. In a national park, the accepted management approach is to replicate a naturally operating system. However one problem is that the park is missing some important parts. Large predators like wolves or bears were killed early in the



1900s in an attempt to protect "good" park animals. The result was the populations of "good" animals (elk, bison, deer) increased. Without natural controls these animals can literally eat themselves out of house and home. Without predators, park staff must control the numbers.

Currently park managers are studying the feasibility of returning a rare native predator, the black-footed ferret, to the park's prairie ecosystem. Prairie dogs make up 90 to 95% of the ferrets' diet and, while prairie dogs are very important to the ecosystem, they must share the range with other grazing animals. Without an efficient predator, park employees must intervene to control their population. Ferrets would provide another tool for resource managers to use and return a part of the prairie ecosystem that has been missing from the park since 1977.

Through research, employees learn about the delicate balance between the needs of the animals and the needs of the ecosystem. This information will then be used to develop management plans that will be followed by park managers far into the future. These plans help ensure park visitors will continue to enjoy seeing these amazing animals for generations to come.



Identifying the Wild

Wind Cave National Park visitors encounter a unique mix of plant life that makes up the incredible prairie ecosystem - from tall, waving grasses to a colorful profusion of wildflowers. This vibrant, yet seemingly endless sea of grass is a diverse ecosystem containing plant species from the eastern tallgrass and western shortgrass prairies. One of the exciting jobs a park botanist has is identifying and protecting the diverse plant life growing here.

Diversity is important to the park ecosystems; it is the way nature confronts adversity and it protects against biological disasters. Botanists find that short grasses tend to thrive in dry years; in wet years tall grasses dominate; some plants grow in warm seasons, others in cool seasons. In turn, this diversity supports an amazing variety of wildlife.

However, this ecosystem is not without threats. One of the most serious is the invasion of non-native plants. In some areas where non-native plants have invaded, native plants are in danger of being

replaced. Non-native plants are a problem when they overrun an area and out-compete the native vegetation for space, nutrients, and water.

Canada thistle is a non-native species that concerns park managers. It is an invasive plant that can completely dominate an area where dozens of native species once grew. To control the proliferation of this and other non-native plants, the management team must plan carefully how to control them. One of the tools they use is mechanical controls or manual labor, in other words - mowing the prairie.

When Canada thistle is cut just before the flowers or seed-heads bloom, the plant must use stored energy to produce flowers again. If this is done several times throughout the growing season, the plants expend so much energy producing seeds that the roots don't have the opportunity to store energy and the plant begins to die.

To protect the seemingly endless sea of grass, we must understand the effects of invasive non-native plants and learn how to control them. Mowing sections of the prairie is just one tool park managers use to protect the diversity encountered in this remarkable national park.



Sharing the Wild

It is the job of the park's interpretation division to help visitors learn about the resources. The park has special meaning to everyone who visits, and these rangers get the opportunity to help visitors see what is here, learn why it is special, and learn to protect it.

Park interpreters are the rangers that visitors interact with when they arrive at the visitor center, take a cave tour, or attend a campfire program. These rangers have the special job of talking with visitors and helping them learn about the environment. They help take the park to

people who can not visit the area by bringing the outdoors inside. They write articles for newspapers, talk to radio stations, and put information on the Internet. Interpreters not only have to be able to communicate well, but they also have to research and organize their own programs. They spend a lot of time with the biologists, botanists, cave management specialists, and maintenance staff to learn all they can about the park, what makes it special, and how to protect it. Then they get the awesome job of sharing that information with park visitors.



Exploring the Wild

While most people do not think of exploring the far reaches of an underground maze as standard, here at Wind Cave it is "All in a day's work." Exploration is a careful process of mapping cave passages and inventorying the locations of formations. To explore Wind Cave, experienced cavers must be willing to dedicate time getting to know the cave and learning the regulations. One of the first explorers of Wind Cave, Alvin McDonald, knew the cave was very complex. In January 1891, he wrote in his journal, "Have given up the idea of finding the end of Wind Cave." Today's explorers have the same thoughts about the cave; however, they continue to explore in hopes of finding places that no one has seen before while learning important information about the cave and how to protect it.

Maintaining the Wild

One of the jobs that is seldom noticed but is important to everyone is the job of the maintenance staff. They have the important job of making sure the park is safe, clean, and working properly for everyone. The maintenance team makes sure the bathrooms are clean; the parking lot is litter free and well marked; the cave lights work; the fences are maintained; the campground water system works properly; the roads are cleared after snow storms; park buildings are maintained and upgraded; and a variety of other jobs that we would not notice unless they were not done well. They also help with projects such as controlling non-native vegetation, trapping animals, and fighting fires.

The visitor center and many nearby buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. Without proper care from an attentive maintenance division these buildings would not be present today. These are the people who make sure the park operates smoothly and the animals, visitors, and staff have a safe place to visit, work, or live.

Administering the Wild

All of the activities of the park are not without cost and oversight. One of the less dramatic, but very important jobs includes being accountable to the public for the work that is happening and making sure that the park staff is being paid. This is the job of the administrative division. These people make sure park spending is within the budget set by Congress. They help plan and pay for the many items other employees need and for projects happening in the park.

The administration team coordinates technology enhanced learning for the park staff. This training allows employees to connect with instructors throughout the country without leaving the park. They also answer the phone and provide information to the public and connect researchers to the resource management team. They make sure that all the divisions communicate well with each other so the park runs smoothly and everyone is working toward the same mission - that of preserving the natural and historical resources of the park.



Unfortunately, simply by entering the cave people impact it. Anyone who enters the cave must agree to protect cave resources by limiting any touching of formations or surfaces and by following established routes. These routes avoid areas with delicate formations. Even lint from the explorer's clothing affects the cave. Therefore exploration is a balancing act between learning about the cave and minimizing damage by exploring it.

Exploring the cave is not limited to crawling through tight passages. Scientists explore many aspects of the cave such as geology and biology. They have even studied the wind blowing in and out of the cave. Something the wind tells us is the volume of space within the cave. Knowing that, scientists have determined that less than 10 percent of the cave has been found; there is still much research and exploration needing to be done.

Protecting the Wild

Protecting the park is a complex job comprised of many parts, but one job has remained the same and that is protecting people who visit the park and the resources they come to enjoy. This is the job of the protection ranger. When the park was established, Congress created rules so the resources would be protected. These men and women enforce those rules so visitors are safe and the resources are protected.

These rangers help others understand that if the resources are changed or removed some of the important pieces of the park will be missing for those who come after us. They explain why feeding wildlife creates a dangerous situation for the animals and us. They make everyone aware that speed limits in the park protect us and the animals living here. Helping everyone follow the rules so we will have the same resources to enjoy is a critical part of protecting the park for this and future generations.



Making the Park Stronger

The employees of the park find that there is more to the job than just administration, maintenance, or presenting programs. The staff works as a team to accomplish the goals of protecting the park. When an employee is in the backcountry they are aware of resource issues such as the sighting of rare plants or unusual animal behavior. They take part in wildlife capture operations, in fighting fires, and even with maintenance projects. Because everyone is involved, the team is stronger and the park better protected. So don't hesitate to ask questions of anyone in the park, they should know the answer or at least know where to find it.

The team is stronger than just the employees. It includes the visitors and everyone interested in the park. By being involved, by visiting the park and supporting the idea of National Parks, we all contribute. Protecting and operating a park involves everyone - including you!

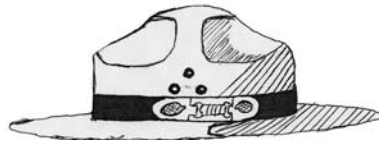
WALKS AND TALKS

PRAIRIE HIKE

Take a hike with a ranger! Explore the park's varied habitats with this 2-hour summer activity. The daily hike begins at the visitor center before the group drives to a nearby trailhead. Bring drinking water and wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes. Check at the visitor center for details.

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Become better acquainted with Wind Cave National Park by attending an evening campfire program. These talks are presented nightly during the summer at the Elk Mountain Campground Amphitheater.



Topics may include wildlife, plants, geology, cave exploration, park management, and history. The programs last about 45 minutes.

DISCOVERY ACTIVITY

Daily, during the summer, ranger talks or demonstrations take place at the visitor center. These programs explain some facet of the park. Topics may include local wildlife, plants, geology, area history, and cave surveying. Check at the visitor center for meeting place and topic.

JUNIOR RANGERS

The Junior Ranger Program is an exciting opportunity for children and their families to learn about the park. Becoming a Junior Ranger helps youngsters understand the park's ecosystems, the cave, and the animals. It also helps them learn how they can help protect all parts of our environment. Junior Ranger booklets are available for \$1.75 at the bookstore. There are activities for

children up through age 12.

This year through a grant made possible by the **National Park Foundation** and the generous support of **Kodak**, a proud partner of American's National Parks, we will be taking photographs of the accomplishments of our Junior Rangers. These youngsters will then be able to share their pictures and adventures with families and friends.

CAVE TOUR INFORMATION

CAVE TOUR INFORMATION

All cave tours are ranger-guided and leave from the visitor center. The cave temperature is 53°F (11°C) year round. A jacket or sweater is recommended. Good walking shoes are required. Sandals are not recommended. Tickets are sold at the visitor center. Tickets must be purchased at least five minutes before tour times.

NATURAL ENTRANCE TOUR

This tour includes a visit to the only known natural entrance of Wind Cave giving visitors the opportunity to see how the cave got its name. Participants enter the cave through a man-made entrance and journey through the middle level of the cave. Wind



Cave's famous boxwork is abundant throughout this trip. Most of the 300 stairs along this route are down. This moderately strenuous tour lasts 1¼-hours and exits the cave by elevator.

GARDEN OF EDEN TOUR

This 1-hour tour is the least strenuous with only 150 stairs. It is a wonderful sample of Wind Cave. Small amounts of all of the beautiful cave formations – boxwork, popcorn, and flowstone – are seen along the ¼-mile trail. The tour is for people with limited time or abilities. This tour enters and exits the cave by elevator.

FAIRGROUNDS TOUR

This 1½-hour tour explores both the upper and middle levels of Wind Cave. Boxwork is abundant along the trail in the middle level of the cave. In the upper level, the trail winds through large rooms and into areas where popcorn and frostwork can be seen. This is the most strenuous walking tour. The tour enters and exits the cave by elevator. There are 450 stairs along the route with one flight of 90 steps up.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wind Cave offers a variety of wonderful opportunities to learn about the natural resources of the park. Ranger guided hikes, cave tours, or campfire programs provide interesting information about many different aspects of the park. Exploring the visitor center, participating in the Junior Ranger Program, or hiking in the park are also great ways to discover what is special about this national park.

Teachers wanting an educational opportunity for their students can participate in regular cave tours or the park's *Connections* program. *Connections* allows students to explore the park with a ranger and is offered in May.



The park also has a teaching unit and trunk titled *Water in the Environment*. This program is available from the park or on the website at www.nps.gov/wica/. The environmental education programs and the trunk are free. For more information call the park at 605-745-4600.



SPECIALTY CAVE TOURS

CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Experience the cave by candlelight. This tour takes place in a less developed, unlighted part of the cave. Each participant will carry a candle bucket. Shoes with non-slip soles are required. No sandals! This tour is limited to 10 people and the minimum age is 8. This strenuous tour covers 1 mile of rugged trail and lasts 2 hours. Reservations are strongly recommended. Reservations are accepted beginning one month before the tour. Please call the park at 605-745-4600 for more information.

TOURS FOR VISITORS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The visitor center and the cave are accessible to people with limited mobility. Please call ahead to make special arrangements or ask at the information desk for a special tour. Limited areas of the cave are accessible to wheelchairs. The fee for the tour is \$5.00 for adults and half price for Golden Age / Senior or Access Past holders. Please call the park at 605-745-4600 for more information.

WILD CAVE TOUR

Explore the cave away from the developed trails. On this 4-hour tour visitors will be introduced to basic, safe caving.

Wear old clothes and gloves, as much of the trip will include crawling. Long pants, long sleeved shirts, and sturdy, lace-up boots or shoes with non-slip soles are required. The park provides hard hats, lights, and kneepads.

Please do not bring jewelry, watches, or other valuables on the tour. Clothing worn on the Jewel Cave Wild Cave Tour is not permitted in Wind Cave since this clothing could be covered with manganese.

This tour is limited to 10 people and the minimum age is 16. We require a signed parental consent form for participants 16 and 17 years old. Reservations are required. Reservations are accepted beginning one month before the tour. Please call the park at 605-745-4600 for more information.

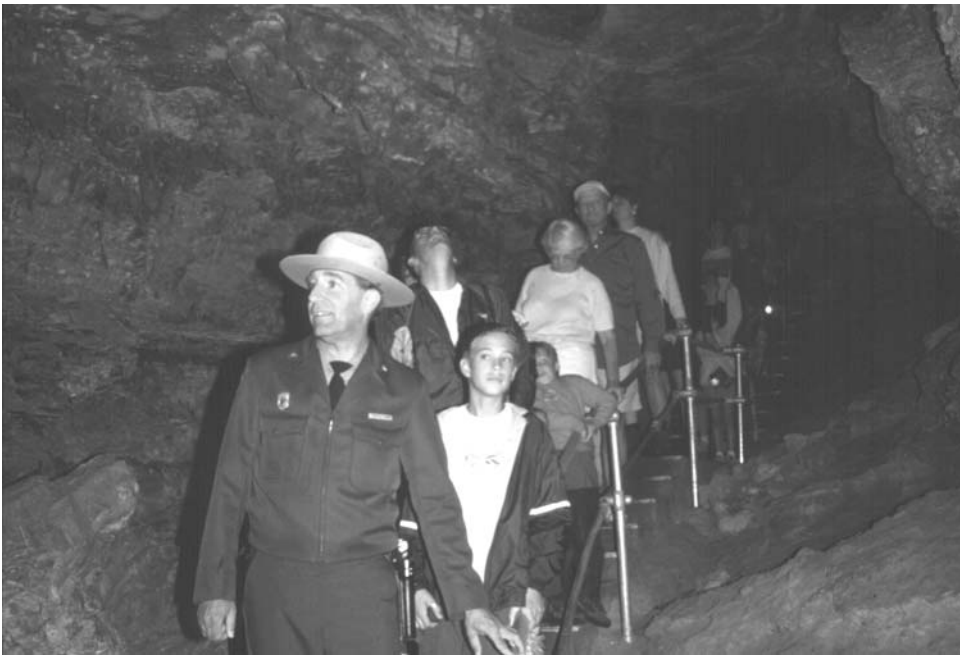


TOUR FEES*

Tickets must be purchased at least 5 minutes before tour time.

	Garden of Eden	Natural Entrance	Fairgrounds	Candlelight	Wild Cave
Age 17-61	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	****\$23.00
Senior Pass**	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$11.50
Age 6-16	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	***\$4.50	****Not Permitted
Under 6	Free	Free	Free	Not Permitted	Not Permitted

- * Holders of an Access Card receive a 50% discount on tours.
- ** Person must possess a Golden Age / Senior Pass to receive the discount.
- *** Minimum age for Candlelight Tour is 8.
- ****Minimum age for the Wild Cave Tour is 16. The fee is \$23.00.



CAVE TOUR INFORMATION & SAFETY

All tours are ranger-guided and leave from the visitor center. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis, except for the Candlelight, Wild Cave Tours and groups (see *Reservations* below.) During peak summer visitation, long waits may be encountered. To avoid waits, the best time to visit the cave is during the early hours of the day. During the summer, weekends are good times to visit; Tuesdays and Wednesdays are the busiest days. Reservations for school and organized groups are available (see *Reservations*.) A light jacket or sweater is recommended for all cave tours, as Wind Cave is 53°F (11°C) throughout the year. Good walking shoes are required on all tours. Cave trails are dimly lighted and trail surfaces may be uneven, wet, and slippery. Do not wear sandals. Ceilings may be low,

requiring some bending. For the protection of the cave, do not touch or remove rocks or formations and do not step off the trail. There are no restrooms in the cave. No eating, drinking, chewing tobacco or gum is allowed in the cave. Photography is permitted, but no tripods. Pets are not allowed in the cave. Cave tours are moderately strenuous. Persons with claustrophobia, heart or respiratory conditions, or other physical limitations should reconsider. A tour is available, by request, for visitors with special needs. Call 605-745-4600 or ask at the information desk. Do not leave your pets in your vehicle while visiting the cave or for any length of time. The temperatures inside a vehicle can become extreme, putting your pet in grave danger. Kennel space is available in Hot Springs or Custer.

RESERVATIONS

Most cave tours are first-come, first-served; however, reservations are accepted for schools or large groups. Reservations are strongly recommended for the

Candlelight Tour and required for the Wild Cave Tour. Reservations are accepted beginning one month before the tour. Please call 605-745-4600 for reservations.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE



April 7 - April 28, 2007
Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Garden of Eden Tour 9:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 3:30

April 29 - May 25, 2007
Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30

May 26 - 28, 2007, Memorial Day Weekend
Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Garden of Eden Tour 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, and 5:00
Natural Entrance Tour 8:40, 9:20, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30
Fairgrounds Tour 10:00, 12:00, 2:00, and 4:00
Campfire Program 8:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

May 29 - June 6, 2007
Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Garden of Eden Tour 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30
Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00

June 7 - August 18, 2007
Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Garden of Eden Tour 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, and 4:40
Natural Entrance Tour 8:40, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, and 6:00.
Fairgrounds Tour 9:30, 10:20, 11:40, 12:20, 1:40, 2:20, 3:40, and 4:20
Candlelight Tour 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Wild Cave Tour 1:00 p.m.
Ranger-led Hike 9:00 a.m.
Campfire Program 9:00 p.m

August 19 - September 3, 2007
Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Garden of Eden Tour 10:30, 1:40, and 3:40
Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00
Fairgrounds Tour 9:30, 11:20, 12:20, 1:20, and 3:20
Candlelight Tour 1:30 p.m.
Wild Cave Tour 1:00 p.m. Weekends Only Aug. 18, 19, 25, 26, and September 1 and 2
Campfire Program 8:00 p.m.

September 4 - September 22, 2007
Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Natural Entrance Tour 9:00, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, and 4:30
Evening Program 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday

September 23 - October 13, 2007
Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Natural Entrance Cave Tour 9:30, 11:30, 1:30, and 3:30

October 14 - Early April, 2008
Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day
Garden of Eden Tour 10:00, 1:00, and 3:00

Tour schedules are subject to change. Please call 605-745-4600 to confirm tour times. Programs are subject to cancellation during severe weather.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

dial 911 or

contact any park ranger or call the

visitor center at 605-745-4600.



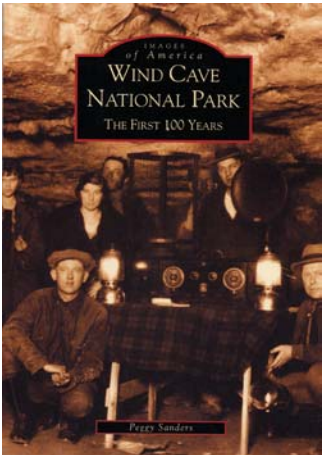
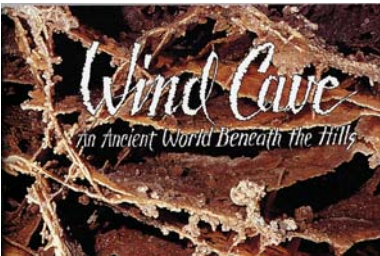
The Park Bookstore

The Black Hills Parks & Forests Association sells books, maps, and other park related publications in visitor centers at Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer State Park, the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, and Black Hills National Forest. The association publishes books and materials about these areas.

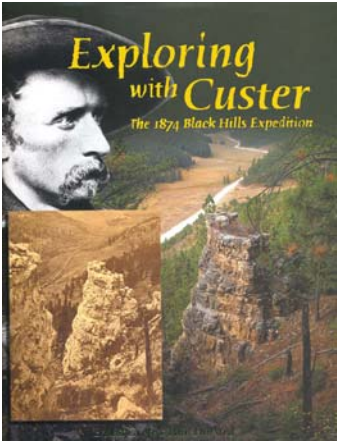
Cooperating associations are non-profit, tax exempt organizations authorized by Congress to promote educational and scientific activities within national parks. All profits from association sales support the educational, interpretive, and research activities of these agencies.

Many different types of publications are available in the bookstores including books specific to Wind Cave National Park and others about local natural and human history. These publications, maps, and items are available at the bookstore, by mail order, or from the association web site, www.blackhillsparks.org, fax: 605-745-7021, or email bhpf@blackhillsparks.org. Membership in the Black Hills Parks and Forests Association supports the organization and entitles members to a 15% discount on all purchases. The membership is \$29.95 per year. For more information call 605-745-7020.

Wind Cave: An Ancient World Beneath the Hills - In this wonderful, easy-to-read book, Art Palmer explains the geology of Wind Cave, how it is related to the Black Hills, and how the boxwork formed. The charts and graphs help make the topic easily understood by people unfamiliar with geology. The pictures of the unusual Wind Cave boxwork alone make this book well worth the investment. \$8.95

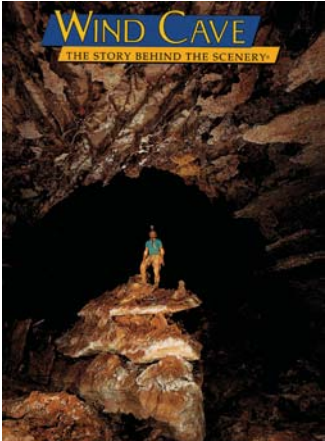


Wind Cave National Park: the First 100 Years - In 1903, Wind Cave National Park became the eighth national park in the nation and the first created to protect a cave. Peggy Sanders encapsulates the park's 100 year history in over 200 vintage images. Travel through time with the early cave and animal management teams, through the Great Depression, and into the present with a collection of classic pictures and stories. \$19.95

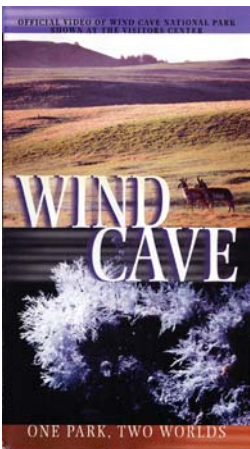
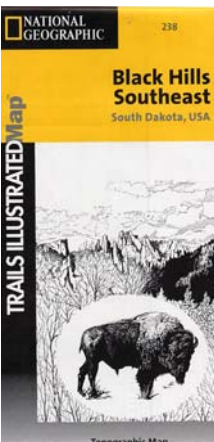


Exploring with Custer – The 1874 Black Hills Expedition - Custer's expedition to the Black Hills was better documented than any other of the Old West. William Illingworth photographed superb views and several diaries brimming with vivid detail remain. Grafe and Horsted's book blends past and present day photos with diary excerpts. Together they paint a portrait of life on the trail. The maps, directions, and GPS readings lead you to campsites, photo stops, and sometimes, ruts left by Custer's wagons. \$34.95

Wind Cave, The Story Behind the Scenery - If you are interested in learning more about the ecosystems, wildlife, and history of Wind Cave National Park, this book by Ron Terry is an excellent choice. It contains outstanding photographs and information about the cave and its unusual boxwork formation. This book goes beyond the cave, including photos and insights about the park's incredible prairie. This book is part of a series that explores the natural, geological, and cultural history of the national parks. \$9.95



Trails Illustrated Map, Black Hills Southeast - If you are interested in hiking in Wind Cave National Park or Custer State Park, this is the trail map to have. This tear-proof, waterproof map details the hiking trails, campsites, roads, elevations, and many other standard features of a topographic map. Wind Cave National Park is illustrated on one side and Custer State Park and the Black Elk Wilderness are on the other side. The map is part of a series of National Geographic Trails Illustrated Maps. There is also a Black Hills Northeast map detailing the Black Hills National Forest. \$9.95



Wind Cave: One Park, Two Worlds - takes viewers on a journey into two vastly different landscapes of uncompromising beauty - the prairie and the cave. This 20 minute DVD movie tells the dramatic stories of Wind Cave National Park's natural and human history, including the story of Alvin MacDonald - the first explorer of this subterranean world and the story of the bison - the symbol of the Great Plains. Through breathtaking photography this video captures the spirit, mystery, and beauty of one of America's oldest National Parks. \$19.95

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Mail to: Black Hills Parks & Forests Association
26611 U.S. Hwy 385
Hot Springs, SD 57747
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Mail tube (cave maps)	\$3.50